Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) A biocompatible, hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition comprising:

a cross-linked gelatin sponge; and

a wetting agent;

wherein the wetting agent decreases hydration time of the gelatin sponge; and

~~a non-aqueous solvent is used to dissolve~~ the wetting agent is soluble in a non-aqueous solvent.

23. (previously presented) The biocompatible, hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition of Claim 22, wherein the gelatin composition is bioabsorbable.

24. (previously presented) The biocompatible, hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition of Claim 22, wherein the wetting agent is an anionic wetting agent.

25. (previously presented) The biocompatible, hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition of Claim 22, wherein the wetting agent is selected from the group consisting of ether capped polyoxyalkylenes, ester capped polyoxyalkylenes, polyethylene oxides, carboxymethyl cellulose, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, sorbitan esters, phosphatides, alkyl amines, and glycerin.

26. (previously presented) The biocompatible, hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition of Claim 22, wherein the wetting agent is selected from the group

consisting of alkyl (C_6-C_{20}) sulfate salts, aryl (C_6-C_{10}) sulfate salts, and alkaryl (C_7C_{24}) sulfate salts.

27. (previously presented) The biocompatible, hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition of Claim 22, wherein the gelatin composition comprises from about 0.01 to about 5 weight percent of the wetting agent.

28. (previously presented) The biocompatible, hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition of Claim 22, wherein the wetting agent is coated on at least a substantial portion of the surface of the gelatin sponge by soaking the gelatin sponge in a coating solution including the wetting agent and a solvent, followed by evaporation of the solvent from the coating solution.

29. (previously presented) The biocompatible, hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition of Claim 28, wherein the coating solution comprises from about 0.01 to about 20 weight percent of the wetting agent.

30. (previously presented) The biocompatible, hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition of Claim 22, wherein the gelatin composition is sterilized and packaged for use in surgical procedures.

31. (previously presented) The biocompatible, hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin of Claim 22, wherein the gelatin composition further comprises a growth factor.

32. (previously presented) The biocompatible, hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin of Claim 22, wherein the gelatin composition further comprises a thrombus enhancing agent.

33. (previously presented) The biocompatible, hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin of Claim 22, wherein the gelatin composition further comprises an antimicrobial agent.

34. (withdrawn) A method for hydrating a biocompatible, hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition, comprising the steps of:

providing an aqueous solution;

providing a cross-linked gelatin composition including a cross-linked gelatin sponge and a wetting agent, wherein the wetting agent is coated on at least a substantial portion of the surface of the gelatin sponge and decreases hydration time of the gelatin sponge; and

contacting the gelatin composition with the aqueous solution.

35. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 34, wherein the wetting agent is coated on at least a substantial portion of the surface of the gelatin sponge by soaking the gelatin sponge in a coating solution including the wetting agent and a solvent, and evaporation of the solvent from the coating solution.

36. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 35, wherein the coating solution comprises from about 0.01 to about 20 weight percent of the wetting agent.

37. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 34, wherein the gelatin composition comprises from about 0.01 to about 5 weight percent of the wetting agent.

38. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 34, wherein the gelatin composition is bioabsorbable.

39-41. (cancelled)

42. (previously presented) The biocompatible, hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition of Claim 22, wherein the wetting agent is selected from a group consisting of polyoxyalkylenes.

43. (currently amended) A hemostatic compound delivery system, comprising:

a cross-linked gelatin sponge comprising a wetting agent;

wherein the wetting agent decreases hydration time of the gelatin sponge and the wetting agent is soluble in a non-aqueous solvent; ~~and~~

a saline solution; and

a syringe assembly.

44. (canceled)

45. (currently amended) The system of claim [[44]] 43, wherein the syringe assembly comprises a holding chamber, an injection port, an ejection port, and a cannula.

46. (previously presented) The system of claim 45, wherein the injection port is a luer hub.

47. (currently amended) The system of claim 43, wherein the system is adapted to combine the saline solution and ~~is used to hydrate~~ the gelatin sponge in the holding chamber and subsequently eject the sponge.